



The Town of Fenwick Island

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ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE MEETING

March 13, 2024, at 9:00 a.m.

Town Hall

MINUTES

Present: Colleen Wilson, Janice Bortner (Zoom), Susan Brennan (Zoom), Liz Lear, Pam Pridgeon (Zoom), Vicki Carmean

Other Participants: Natalie Magdeburger (Zoom)

Staff Participants: Pat Schuchman, Lori Dabbondanza

Call to Order/ Flag Salute

1. Approval of Minutes from February 7, 2024
The minutes for the February 7, 2024, meeting were approved on a Susan Brennan/Liz Lear motion.
2. Offshore Wind Update
Colleen shared that yesterday there was a DNREC presentation on the transmission lines that are proposed at the 3R's beach. She attended the event but noted the staff seemed very non-committal. There were protestors there both pro- and against- wind energy. A survey was distributed at the event, and everyone was encouraged to complete it prior to the March 29 deadline. The survey can be found here: [US Wind Proposal at Delaware Seashore State Park 3 R's Beach Access \(alchemer.com\)](http://US Wind Proposal at Delaware Seashore State Park 3 R's Beach Access (alchemer.com))
3. Pollinator Garden Update
All of the raised beds are now in place. There are 2 additional 4x4 boxes that were added. Susan Brennan has been in touch with the soil company and thinks we will need about 10 yards of soil. She added that she has been in touch with Mike Locke to make sure the soil can be put in the right-of-way, close to the pollinator garden. She has also received a price quote for moving the soil from the street to the garden. She discussed some options for planting in the garden, including shrubbery. Colleen and Susan will be meeting with Inland Bays regarding the cost of the plants. She will be doing a presentation on April 13 for the Barefoot Gardeners Club regarding pollinator gardens, and they hope to raise some money for the purchase of plants during that presentation. Vicki asked if the pollinator hotels and bird houses should be placed in the garden now.

Susan believes it would be a good idea to put them in the garden now and recommends that the large hotel be placed in the middle of the two beds on a pole. The smaller hotel can be put on the Peppers' side of the garden and the two bird houses should be mounted on the pine trees in the garden.

Pat suggested looking into Millville Organic Center for the soil and mulch purchase. This is who the Town uses, and they may offer discount pricing. The next steps will be to order soil, get it delivered and start digging.

4. Earth Day Planning 2024

Colleen noted that Earth Day is on April 20. We have string backpacks to hand out that day. Susan Brennan will take the lead on seed packets or seed balls for giveaways. Colleen will be putting something in the newspaper this week. Assignments will be printed out for the day of the event.

Deborah Cowell noted that the Green Infrastructure Working Group will be sharing a flyer with Earth Day participants. Dianna Harris from Ocean City will also have an Offshore Wind display that day as well.

The committee discussed holding a raffle for some pollinator plants. Everyone agreed that was a good idea. Pat Schuchman indicated that the Town will reimburse for the purchase of the raffle items. Staff will supply drinks and refreshments that morning. Public Works will be putting up the Earth Day banner outside Town Hall on April 1.

Final planning for the event will be done at the April 10 meeting. Susan, Janice, and Pam agreed to assist with set-up on Friday, April 19.

5. Comprehensive Plan Update

Susan Brennan shared that an ordinance has been adopted for the 2024 Comprehensive Plan. The plan has been sent to the State Planning Office and they will send it over to the Governor for his certification. The 6-month mark for the plan will be in September. The Planning Commission is planning a report for that time. They are required to provide an annual report to the state. They have asked that committees have their reports in to the Planning Commission by the end of March. The implementation part is important. Colleen thanked Susan and the Commission for all their work.

6. Upcoming Events

a. Beach Grass Planting

Beach grass planting is planned for March 16 at 9 a.m. Registration was required. Volunteers were instructed to meet at Georgetown Street at 9 a.m.

b. US Wind's Use of OC Harbor – Public Hearing: March 25, 5:30 p.m.

A public hearing regarding US Wind's use of the Ocean City Harbor has been

scheduled for March 25 at 5:30 p.m. at Wor-Wic Community College, Fulton-Owen Hall, 32000 Campus Drive, Salisbury, MD. Everyone was encouraged to attend.

c. Pat's retirement

Colleen noted that this is Pat's last meeting with the Environmental Committee. She thanked her for her years of service to the Town of Fenwick Island and presented her with a small departing gift. An Open House honoring Pat Schuchman will be held at Town Hall on April 5 from 1-3 pm.

d. Ribbon cutting for Pollinator Garden

Committee members asked about exploring a ribbon cutting event for the pollinator garden.

e. April 11 event with Senator Hocker and Representative Gray

More information will be shared with everyone once more information is made available.

7. New Business

None

8. Public Participation

None

9. Next Meeting: April 10, 2024, 9 a.m., Town Hall

We will be finalizing everything for the Earth Day celebration.

10. Adjournment

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10 a.m. on a Vicki Carmean/Susan Brennan motion. Motion carried.